

The Colored American

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SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1900.

THE CAMPAIGN ISSUES OF 1900.

The past four years have been prolific of momentous events in the history of the Republic. In no other space of time have the traditions of the country been more violently shaken. For a long series of years it was our settled policy that the American continent, and especially that portion of it embraced in the United States, was large enough for us. But while confining ourselves to the magnificent domain, bounded by the two greatest oceans that exist and insisting that the great powers of the world should live up to the unwritten law laid down by President Monroe that there should be no European intervention in the affairs of the Occident, although many of these powers possessed territory on the North and South American Continent, the wishes of the United States were respected in a most remarkable degree. The Spanish-American War swept away the Monroe doctrine, many wise men to the contrary notwithstanding, and placed us in the position of a great country in instant contact with the regnant powers of the world. This could not be otherwise when we possess a vast territory with a large motley population separated from us by 5,000 miles as the first stopping place in the Pacific and by 10,000 miles at the extreme end of our new possessions.

The question of expansion cannot be a burning question. We have expanded. We have possessed ourselves of Porto Rico, Hawaii, the Sulis and the Philippine Islands. What we have taken on as the fruits of war we cannot well throw off. Having broken the Spanish power and failed to give to the late subjects of Spain their independence and having assumed the government of these countries where Spain left it off, the nations of the world look to us for a proper administration of affairs and for the meeting of such of the many and just obligations as came into our possession when we took on those countries. But the question of the government of these people is a burning question. We do

from all indications is bound to receive a re-nomination at the Philadelphia Convention. It is not conceivable that the American people will turn over the government to people like William J. Bryan standing upon such an iconoclastic platform as that adopted by the Chicago Democratic Convention of 1896.

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The money question has been settled by the action of Congress and the result of the election in next November cannot affect it, as the Republicans are entrenched for the next six years in the Senate branch of Congress. The same is true of the question of tariff legislation. The success of the Democratic Party, however, would necessarily by reason of the agitation that would follow disturb the industrial and financial interests of the country. And it is from this point of view that we are to consider the wisdom or unwisdom of allowing the Democratic Party to come into power again.

The question of "trusts" will play a prominent part in the ensuing campaign. Trusts may be defined to be gigantic combinations of small interests and capital for the controlling of any given industry. For instance, the Standard Oil Company has purchased or crushed out all of its rivals. The Sugar Trust has done the same thing. The Cracker Trust has done the same thing, and so on to the end. Now it is natural that such large combinations of industry and capital should follow our enormous development of wealth and industry. In how far these combinations of capital and industry are to be controlled by legislation is the sharp question that will enter most largely into the discussion of the question. Indeed Mr. Bryan and his Democratic conferees are taking it for granted that in the matter of the control of the trusts they have the only right idea. There are others who don't think so.

We wish that we might include among the issues of the impending campaign the large and vital question of suffrage and other class legislation in the Southern States. From the suffrage point of view, the Southern States by all the rascality known to unscrupulous politics have initiated such selfish legislation as to destroy the value of a large section of their citizenship. This has gone so far that one Congressional district in New York cast in the Congressional election of 1898 as many votes as were cast in the two States of Louisiana and South Carolina. The inequality of representation based upon the diminution of the colored voting population is so unjust and glaring as to call for some specific remedy for the evil by the Republican Party. No relief is to be expected from the Democratic Party because it inaugurated the system of disfranchisement which has brought about the present deplorable condition of affairs. We hardly think this question will be an issue. We do think it should be.

We have an abiding faith that the American people will give substantial support to the Republican policy in the matter of our foreign and domestic relations so ably inaugurated and carried out by President McKinley, who,

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and clearness of its note in the grand-symphony of song that now charms the world is a matter of the greatest satisfaction to the race.

THE SOUTHERN SOCIETY.

A new association has been formed in the South. It is called "The Southern Society." Its promoters are white men in Montgomery, Ala. They have their own idea about how to settle the race question, and one of them is that in the matter of education and the expenditure of money in that direction the southern white men are better able to conduct it than the northern white men who furnish it. If we are correctly informed another basic principle of the society is that Afro-American suffrage is a failure and the conferring of the ballot on Afro Americans was a gigantic mistake.

A society in Philadelphia has instituted a lecture course in which several white southerners have been included, among them R. G. Glenn, State Commissioner of Education for Georgia, Mr. W. A. Blair, a prominent citizen and banker of Greensboro, N. C., and Mr. Murphy of Montgomery, Ala. The lectures delivered by these gentlemen in Philadelphia placed the race question in such a light as to carry consternation to the hearts of those who wish the race well, and a loud cry has gone out from the Quaker City that the facts and arguments advanced by these men must be met and refuted by men of the race at all hazards. We have seen only abstracts of these lectures and are not therefore in a position to discuss fully the text of them. We therefore do no more than to indicate that there is danger ahead and it behooves us to be on our guard. "The Southern Society" claims to be a staunch friend of the Afro-American race. It may be. Once upon a time circumstances in the Orient brought out from the Hebrew leadership this maxim: "Beware of the Greeks even when they bear grapes." We cannot admit that suffrage in our hands has been a failure because we have had no fair test of it; we will not admit that the conferring of the suffrage on us at the time it was, was a mistake, because if we hadn't got it when we did we would not have gotten it at all. It has been firmly implanted in the Federal Constitution and as long as it remains there no subterfuge or evasion adopted by those States which are antagonistic to us can root it out. As far as managing the moneys contributed by northern people for the education of the Afro-American youth of the South, and as far as directing that education is concerned, we do not need to discuss it. The people who laid the foundation of the secondary, industrial and higher educational system of the Southern States and who in a large part sustain it by their money are not likely to turn it over to the Southern Society or any other like influence. The work will be conducted along the lines it has been conducted in the past. And the results have been eminently satisfactory from every point of view. No change in control or management appears necessary in the situation.

It is generally predicted throughout the A. M. E. Zion Church that Dr. J. Harvey Anderson, of Binghampton, N. Y., will succeed Dr. J. W. Smith, Editor of the Star of Zion, who is scheduled for the Bishopric.

Col. Perry H. Carson is out in The Washington Post declaring that he has reconsidered his determination to get out of politics and that he is going to get in some more. More fun ahead.